

ALLENS HARD PRESSED; POSSE NEAR OUTLAWS

Detectives Believe Leaders of the Virginia Clan Will Be Captured in a Few Days.

CLAUDE ELUDES PURSUERS

Bandits Have Not Authorized Any One to Make Overture for Surrender—No Chance to Escape.

Galax, Va., March 24.—Claude Swanson Allen, the twenty-two-year-old son of Floyd Allen and one of those indicted for the Hillsville Courthouse murders, has eluded all pursuers, but his uncle, Sidna Allen, and cousins, Wesley Edwards and Friel Allen, are so closely pressed on the south side of the Blue Ridge that they probably will be captured within a few days.

This information came to-day from leaders of the hunt for the gang who on March 14 swooped down on the Carroll County Court, killed Judge Massie, Prosecutor Foster, Sheriff Webb, Fowler, a juror, and Miss Nancy Ayres, and wounded two bystanders.

Claude S. Allen, who once attended a military school at Raleigh, N. C., and knows more of the outside world than the average mountaineer, it was learned to-day took a pocketful of gold from the family cash drawer on the night of the tragedy, put on his best clothing and vanished on horseback beyond the North Carolina line. Hope of finding him in the mountain region has now been abandoned.

Not so, however, with the three other outlaws, who are dodging about in the crevices of the Blue Ridge between here and Mount Airy, N. C. They have been seen at a distance, detectives having been within thirty minutes' ride of them.

Have No Chance to Escape.

"I hope they will all give themselves up; they had better do it, for they have no chance at all," was the frank comment of Sidna Edwards, likewise indicted for murder, who was taken to-day for safe keeping to the Roanoke jail, where he joined his uncle, Floyd Allen; his cousin, Victor Allen, and his chum, Eyrd Marion, all indicted for complicity in the courthouse shooting.

Edwards swung his tall, robust figure into the train at Galax about noon. He was brought here from Hillsville under a heavy guard. With him was Sergeant White, of the state militia. He arrived in Roanoke to-night seemingly as carefree as a schoolboy on a lark. From fifty miles around the countryside people gathered at the railroad stations to catch a glimpse of the prisoner. They had no difficulty, for Edwards projected his broad shoulders through the train window and waved to each group, not a few of whom were friends or relatives, for Carroll County's population is composed largely of Allens or their kindred.

There was a plaintive note in his voice, however, when Henry Allen, a cousin, attired in the blue uniform of an officer of the peace, stepped aboard the train at Bypass. They shook hands and eyed each other in silence for a moment.

"I'm sorry to see you in a bad scrape like this," sighed Allen.

"Well, sir, I'm sorry to be in it, but I just couldn't help it," was the meek reply. Edwards reiterated his protest of innocence.

"I had a hard time of it," he said.

"For two weeks I had been in bed with pneumonia, and they all dragged me out to come to court to be a witness in Uncle Floyd's trial. I wish now I hadn't gone. The shooting began all of a sudden and the room was filled with smoke in a second, and bullets were flying from one side to the other like lightning. I got out as fast as I could. I ran away because I heard they all shot us on sight. I slept in barns and hid in the fodder, but I knew I was caught some day ago. They could have arrested me much easier."

Detective Thomas L. Feltz and Albert H. Baldwin, whom the county has placed in charge of the search for the Allens, rode with Edwards to Roanoke. They confirmed his statement that capture could have been accomplished sooner, explaining that their purpose was to follow Edwards about in case he attempted to join the other outlaws.

Edwards Fired Some Shots.

Edwards, whose manner is glib and open, hardly seemed to realize the seriousness of his plight. He laughingly read one of the circulars giving descriptions of himself and companions. Last night, in a moment of thoughtlessness, he referred, he declared, to his revolver, declaring that he had fired some shots. Hitherto he had claimed not to be armed. Witnesses before the grand jury said that he gave his pistol to Floyd Allen, so that the latter might continue his pistol duel with the clerk, Dexter Goac, on the courthouse green.

Reports were received at Hillsville to-day that the various posers are still on the watch in the mountains. Most of the Allen family, though not involved in the tragedy, included among which is Jasper ("Jack") Allen, were to-day placed under close surveillance. Offers of surrender, it was authoritatively said to-day, emanated from some Allen non-combatants. The detectives are positive that the outlaws have authorized no one to make propositions on their behalf, because communication with the bandits in the mountains has been blocked.

The formal arraignment of the prisoners has been definitely set for April 15 at Hillsville. A change of venue to Wytheville, Wythe County, is probable.

ROANOKE, VA., March 24.—Detective

Tom Feltz, who arrived here this afternoon with Sidna Edwards, said to-night that Sidna confessed to him this afternoon on the train that he handed his uncle, Floyd Allen, a pistol the morning of the shooting at Hillsville. The prisoner said he was standing in the courthouse door when Floyd came by and asked him to give him his pistol. He did so, but later got it back from Allen after the latter was wounded. The prisoner denied that he fired a shot.

SMUGGLING PLOT FOUND

Gems Valued at \$50,000 Seized by U. S. in Minneapolis.

(By Telegraph to the Tribune.)

Minneapolis, March 24.—Diamonds and jewelry valued at \$50,000 have been seized by customs officials in the vaults of a bank here, where the jewelry was on deposit in a private box, according to information received at the Federal Building.

The jewels are alleged to have been fraudulently imported.

It was impossible to-day to learn who the owners of the jewels are. It is understood, however, that the firm is charged with doing a large business in the illegal importation of jewelry and that developments may involve several men of wealth and prominence in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The number of years which this alleged smuggling chain has been successfully operating has not been ascertained by the customs officials, but it is believed that it has been carried on for several years. Therefore the seizures made are alleged to involve only the jewels which were left unsold of the consignments received in the last few months. The system was operated, it is said, in this manner:

A firm in Minneapolis would send a man to London with an order on the agency of the firm for a stipulated amount of jewelry. After getting the jewelry, this man would go to Canada and get in touch with the Winnipeg agents of the firm, who would inform him whether he safely could cross the line at that particular time. If there was any suspicion that the man had been shadowed the jewelry was transferred to another, and that person continued the journey unsuspected and would cross into Minnesota.

Once in Minnesota, the man went directly to Minneapolis, where he delivered his load and made preparations for another ocean trip. From the Minneapolis house the jewelry was distributed throughout the Northwest, it is said.

Besides the Canadian channel it is believed the firm also operated over the Mexican border, but evidence in the latter case is lacking. The customs officials here obtained a clue to the alleged Minneapolis end of the scheme in this city. Treasury officials in Washington would not discuss the case to-day, further than to say one seizure has been made.

FOX DIVORCE CASE DELAYED

Row in Reno Court Between Counsel Over Adjournments.

(By Telegraph to the Tribune.)

Reno, Nev., March 24.—The divorce case of Mrs. Margaret H. Fox against Hugh Corby Fox, president of the Fox Brothers' Hat Company, was delayed to-day by the repeated continuances of the trial by the defense attorneys for the plaintiff, and a lively controversy in court came yesterday, resulting in a judge declaring that no more delays would be countenanced and that the hearing must start on April 2.

A local attorney for the defense, Hugh Percy, declared the delay was caused by the illness of the New York attorney, John Black, and by the time necessary for taking forty depositions. Those documents are understood to be by many persons prominent in society and club circles in New York and elsewhere.

Judge Orr declared that Mr. Percy should go on with the arguments on the question of alimony pending a decision in the case if the New York court was not ready in ten days. Mr. Percy replied that he would refuse, and it was decided that he had not received any payment on account of his services.

MOB LYNCHES A NEGRO

Hanged Him to Telephone Pole for Shooting Deputy Constable.

Fort Smith, Ark., March 24.—A mob broke into the city jail here to-night and seized a negro who had previously shot and probably fatally wounded Deputy Constable Andrew Carr. The black was dragged through the most prominent business street in town to the front of a hotel and hanged to a telephone pole. Five hundred men were in the mob. They surged around the jail for almost an hour. After trying to batter down a steel door with a telephone pole the mob tore the bars from a window of the prison. Soon they had the black. He prayed for his life as he was dragged through the streets and to the telephone pole used for a gallows.

The mob dispersed immediately after the negro was strung up, and quiet was restored as soon as his body was cut down.

INWOOD MAN FOUND DEAD

Coroner's Autopsy Indicates Murder—Victim's Brother Missing.

John Rosino, an Inwood dairyman, was found dead in his home, in Henry street, early yesterday morning, with a revolver wound in the left leg and another in the chest. The first report, which declared him a suicide, was denied following the autopsy of Acting Coroner Ralsig, whose findings indicated the man had been murdered.

Rosino's brother Joseph, with whom he lived and had been in business, has not been seen since the discovery of the body.

Coroner Ralsig said the dead man had applied to the authorities last January for a permit to carry a revolver, giving as a reason the threatening behavior of his brother, who, he declared, was constantly picking quarrels with him. The dairy in which both were interested was sold recently, and it is alleged the brothers had quarrelled over the proceeds, which had not been divided.

Answers in the

BOOKREADERS' CONTEST

No. 31—In the Land of Sunrise.

No. 32—The Whirlwind.

No. 33—The Knights of the White Shield.

No. 34—John Bull and His Island.

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